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—Professor Flower is spoken of as the successor of Professor Owen as director of the South Kensington Museum, London.

— Fossil fishes of the Green River shales may be had from S. H. Sommers, St. Joseph, Mo.

— Brig.-Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys, U. S. A., retired, died suddenly at Washington, D. C., Dec. 28, from an attack of *angina pectoris.* The deceased had a brilliant record, both military and civil. At the close of the war he was assigned to duty as chief of engineers, which office he filled until June 30, 1879, when he was retired at his request. He was a member of various American and foreign societies. He will be remembered for his work in connection with Gen. Abbot in the physics and hydrography of the Mississippi river. He was also chief of the surveys for the Pacific railroad, finishing his report in 1861.

— The death is announced of Professor Sven Nilson, the well-known Swedish naturalist, at the ripe age of ninety-seven. He was born at Landskrona, in March, 1787, and so long ago as 1811 obtained the degree of Ph. D. from the University of Lund. His magnum opus is the work on the Scandinavian fauna which occupied him for more than thirty-three years. His last important work was The Primitive Inhabitants of Scandinavia.

— Professor Wm. Denton, of Wellesley, Mass., recently died of fever in New Guinea. His two sons, who were with him, have recently returned to this country, bringing with them a large collection of birds. They state that the natives they met with are friendly.

—As we go to press we hear of the death of Professor Arnold Guyot of Princeton, the well known geographer and geologist.

— The death is also announced of Professor Ercolani, of Bologna.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

American Philosophical Society, April 20, 1883.—Mr. E. W. Claypole read a paper by Professor H. S. Williams, entitled "On a Crinoid with movable spines." The same gentleman also read a paper making a correction of the geological map of Perry county, south of New Bloomfield. At this spot the Lower Devonian is faulted down 3500 feet against the Upper Helderberg.

May 18.—Mr. E. W. Claypole communicated a note "On a relic of the native flora of Pennsylvania, surviving in Perry county," with specimens of *Vaccinium brachycerum* Mich. (*Gaylussaccia brachycera* Gray).

June 16.—Professor Cope presented the following papers from Dr. A. S. Packard: On the morphology of the Myriopoda; A revision of the Lysiopetalidæ, a family of Chilognath Myriopoda, with a notice of the genus Cambala. Mr. Grote communicated a paper upon the Noctuidæ. Twenty-four sub-family groups are here proposed and the structure discussed. About half-a-dozen forms of this family were known in 1859, between which date and 1883 Mr. Grote himself described about 100 genera and 1000 species, so that the total number of species known is now about 1700. The outlines of Mr. Grote's theory of geographical distribution and migration are also given in this paper.

Aug. 17.—A paper upon a large crustacean from the Catskill group of Pennsylvania, by Mr. E. W. Claypole, with a note "On the genus Renssalaeria in the Hamilton group of Perry county, Pennsylvania," and another upon "The equivalent of the New York Portage group in Perry county, Pennsylvania," both by the same author, were read. Specimens of rye, barley, and wheat grains that had sprouted in ice were exhibited, with a letter from Mr. J. Lesley.

Oct. 5.—The Secretary read an article of Professor D. Kirkwood upon the "Zone of Asteroids and the rings of Saturn."

Oct 19.—An annotated translation of the Ramirez MS., giving the history of the Mexicans from their paintings, was communicated by Mr. H. Phillips, Jr. A memoir by Dr. J. C. Branner, upon the course and growth of the fibro-vascular bundles in palms, was also read. Dr. Frazer exhibited a map of Radnor township and the surrounding district, showing the belt of syenite gneiss which runs east and west from Radnor to Wayne stations. Dr. Frazer also discussed the stratigraphical relationships of the serpentine belt south of it. He considered the magnesian beds as original parts of the series, instead of exogenous, as maintained by Mr. Rand.

Nov. 16.—Professor Cope described the formations of New Mexico, the fossils of which he had been studying in his recent journey.

Dec. 7.—Mr. Lilly's section of 1855 feet of Devonian rocks, visible in Gulf Brook gorge, at Leroy, Pennsylvania, was presented. Professor Houston described Mr. P. B. Delancey's method of obtaining perfect self-adjustable synchronism in his synchronous-multiplex telegraph. Professor Cope communicated papers entitled: "On the distribution of the Loup Fork formation in New Mexico;" "Second addition to the knowledge of the Fauna of the Puerco epoch;" and "On the trituberculate form of molar tooth in the Mammalia."

Dec. 21.—Professor Rothrock read a paper entitled "The microscopical examination of timber with regard to its strength," by F. M. Day. Dr. H. Allen read a paper "On a case of human congenital malformation," and exhibited photographs.

Jan. 4, 1884.—Professor Lesley presented a note upon the possible original meanings of the animal ideographs of the god Set.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Nov. 8.—Dr. Sharp called attention to the presence of retinal cells upon the siphon of Solenensis. His attention was first drawn to the matter by observing that these mollusks retracted the siphon when the shadow of his hand passed over the water of the dish they were contained in. Mr. T. Meehan gave an account of his visit to Alaska. The Davidson glacier is retreating, but the great Muir glacier, which has a frontage of two miles, a thickness of 960 feet, and is said to be 400 miles long, still pours its icebergs into the ocean. The region is singularly favorable to vegetation, and the forests, though of few species, are often so dense as to make travel impossible. The trunks frequently touch, in which case their timber is of little value.

Nov. 15.—Dr. Randolph called attention to the structure of the wheat grain. His methods had rendered apparent the presence of gluten in the body of the cell, while the so-called gluten cells of the cortex do not respond to any artificial digestion, and seem to have but little nutritive value.

Professor Heilprin said that a small collection of fossils sent by Professor Cope from Laredo, Texas, proved that the Claiborne or Parisian formation extended south to that point. There is little doubt that it penetrates some distance into Mexico. There must, at some point near this locality, be a contact with the brackish water or terrestrial strata, of as yet undetermined age, to be found further inland.

Nov. 21.—Dr. Sharp called attention to Professor Semper's method of preparing dried specimens of soft animals, and exhibited some beautiful examples.

Dr. Leidy described an older method in which hot tallow was injected, aud afterwards dissolved out with turpentine. Professor Cope spoke of the cretaceous formations, Nos. 4, 5 and 6, in the central part of Dakota, and of extensive buttes lying on the plain. These buttes contained fossils characteristic of the White River Miocene beds.

Dr. Hayden said that the fresh-water lake indicated by these deposits must have extended over 100,000 to 150,000 sq. miles.

Rev. Dr. McCook stated that the occident ant (*Pogonomyrmex occidentalis*) was in Dakota confined to the bottom lands along the Missouri river; it does not stretch eastward of that river in the state of that name, and is absent in Eastern Nebraska, though it abounds in the west of that State, and in Kansas does not occur further east than Brookville. The dèbris collected from the nests contained some undeveloped pods of *Dalea alopecuroides*,* the refuse of the harvesting of these creatures.

A paper entitled "Notes on American Fishes Preserved in the Museums of Berlin, London, Paris and Copenhagen," by D. S. Jordan, was presented for publication, as also one on "Staining with Hæmatoxylon," by Dr. C. L. Mitchell.

Nov. 29.—Rev. Dr. McCook exhibited and described the tent and egg-nest of *Attus opifex*, a Californian saltigrade spider. Dr. McCook also reported the discovery on the Wissahickon of *Psocus expunctatus*, a web-spinning neuropterous insect, not before known to occur in this country. Dr. Horn exhibited specimens of the curious beetle *Platypsylla castoris*, parasitic upon the beaver. These specimens came from European beavers living at the mouth of the Rhone, but the species was first described from examples taken from an American beaver living at Amsterdam. Mr. Cresson described some Aztec bells, considered the probable mode of their manufacture, and compared them with Peruvian, Assyrian and Egyptian forms.

Dec. 6.—Professor Lewis exhibited some gold nuggets from Montgomery county, N. C. Professor Cope placed on record a new genus of mammals supposed to be Lemuroid from the Puerco Eocene. The typical species is *Indrodon malare*.

December 12.—Rev. Dr. McCook described the manner in which the queen ant starts a formicary, as illustrated by the wingless queens of *Camponotus pennsylvanicus*. These had walled themselves in with small particles of bark. Professor Heilprin gave the results of his studies upon the tertiary and cretaceous of the Atlantic and Southern States. The three lowest Cretaceous deposits belong to the Senonian, and the upper one to the Mæstricht group. The boundary of the tertiary was traced through Virginia and the Carolinas. Patches of eocene occur along the rivers of North and South Carolina. Professor Cope exhibited the skull of *Aphelops fossiger* from the Loup Fork strata of Sand creek, an affluent of the San Francisco river, New Mexico. Photographs of an Aphelops indistinguishable from this species indicated the existence of the Loup Fork beds near the City of Mexico. Mr. Wortman referred to similar remains in Florida, indicating the presence of the same beds. Professor Lewis announced that the angles of a mineral described by him at a previous meeting as new, were identical with those of Sarcolite. The large size of the crystals found in Canada is remarkable. Dr. Leidy stated that he had learned that the supposed fresh-water cephalobranch worm Manayunkia, recently described by him, was found in a mill-pond some times overflowed by the ocean, so that, after all, the species may be marine. Dr. A. J. Parker called attention to what may prove a new method of reproduction observed by him in *Amphileptis fasciola*. The lengthened extremity of one of these infusorians broke up into little masses of protoplasm having amœboid movements, although the cilia of the creature continued active. A bud then appeared in the ectosarc, which was followed by the endosarc, and grew until the original form was attained. Rev. Dr. McCook spoke of the architecture of *Formica rufa*, as displayed in Dakota. This ant is European, but occurs also on the plains, even to the elevation of Leadville. It is not found on the Atlantic sea-board.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.—The fourth anniversary meeting was held on Friday evening, January 25th. The President, Professor Charles A. White, delivered the annual address upon: "Certain phases in the geological history of the North American continent, biologically considered."

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Jan. 7.—The paper of the evening was: Notes and criticisms on Mr. Grant Allen's theory of the origin of leaf-forms (illustrated with specimens), by Dr. N. L. Britton.

Jan 14.—The following papers were read: The erosive power of glacier ice, and its influence on the topography of North America, by Dr. John S. Newberry; "Field-work in local mineralogy, by Mr. B. B. Chamberlin.

Jan. 21.—The following paper was read: Methods of animal self-defence (illustrated with lantern), by Professor H. L. Fairchild.

Jan. 28.—Professor J. W. Powell, of Washington, D. C., delivered a lecture on: The mythology of the Indians of the Sacramento valley.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, Jan. 24.—The lecture of the evening was on the exploration of Petra-Arabia, by Edward L. Wilson, Ph.D., illustrated with views.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Jan. 16.—Mr. S. Garman spoke on the "sea-serpent," and showed a remarkable new Selachian. Mr. W. O. Crosby discussed the relation of the slates and conglomerates of the Boston basin.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, Jan. 9.—Annual meeting. The reports of the Secretaries and the Treasurer were presented, and the annual election of officers held. Mr. Elizur Wright read a paper on "The sanitary effect of forests." Rev. William C. Winslow read a paper on "Mount Zion, to-day."

Jan. 18.—Special meeting. Mr. Fred. A. Ober read a paper on "Mexico," including an ascent of Popocatapetl; a large number of lantern views being shown.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF STATEN ISLAND, Jan. 12.—One new member was elected and other business transacted. Mr. C. W. Leng then read a paper on the Cicindelidæ of Staten Island. Remarks were made by Mr. Sechusen on a very interesting series of precious stones, their particular characters, and the localities from which they came. He presented the collection to the society.